

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Colonias Allotment

2003

I. AUTHORIZATION

For the 2003 grazing season, applications for the following were approved:

Permittee	Permitted HMs	<i>Authorized HMs-2003</i>
Ramon O. Vigil	112 (15 C/c 10/16 to 5/31)	112 (43 C/c 12/15 to 2/28)
Delfina Bowles	35 (5 C/c 10/16 to 5/15)	35 (5 C/c 10/16 to 5/15)
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>147</i>

The authorized livestock numbers and grazing periods are no guarantee that they will stay on a pasture for the full grazing period or the allotment for the full season. Below average forage production may require that cattle will be removed from the allotment earlier than expected. This decision will be made in cooperation with you and based on the utilization for key species and key areas as outlined in these Annual Operating Instructions.

The rotation plan (Table 1) is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as lack of water and forage in the pastures. The Forest Service or the permittee can initiate changes of pastures outside of the above rotation plan in coordination with this office. The permittee or this office must submit a written justification before change is made. Moves may be made up to 5 days before the scheduled move date and should be completed within 5 days after the move date, unless prior approval is given to adjust the use periods.

Table 1. Authorized grazing rotation.		
Numbers of Cattle	Pasture	Grazing Period
<i>5 C/c (Bowles)</i>	<i>Colonias Allotment (Single Pasture)</i>	<i>3/1 - 5/15, 10/16 – 2/28</i>
43 C/c (Vigil)	Ojito Encinoso	12/15 – 12/30
43 C/c (Vigil)	Chamisolosa (dependent on water)	01/01 – 01/30
43 C/c (Vigil)	Los Trigos	02/01 – 02/15
43 C/c (Vigil)	Ojo Sarco	02/15 – 02/28

II. UTILIZATION/MONITORING

The proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Colonias Allotment. We will be checking levels of use to insure that forage utilization is within recommended levels during the grazing season. Key areas and key species (Table

2) will be monitored within the allotment. Maps with the locations of the key areas are available from this office upon request.

Table 2. Key areas and key species for the Glorieta-Apache Allotment		
Site #	Pasture/Key Area Location	Key Grass Species
1	Cañon Chamisolosa (Sec. 24)	Blue Grama, Western Wheatgrass
2	Cañon de los Trigos (Sec. 14)	Blue Grama, Western Wheatgrass
3	Near FS road 83 (Sec. 36)	Blue Grama, Western Wheatgrass

Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring forage use and stubble height on the allotment to ensure that proper use levels are not exceeded. We are primarily concerned with use levels in canyon bottoms where cattle tend to concentrate. We have identified key areas to be monitored on this allotment. Maximum allowable use is based on a conservative grazing intensity of less than or equal to 40% utilization on key forage species. Please refer to the Table 3 below for descriptors to aid in determining forage use levels.

Forage use levels should be monitored periodically by the permittee to aid in determining when livestock should be moved between pastures. **Permittee inspection summary sheets (attached) are provided for your convenience in order to record any of your observations throughout the season. You are highly encouraged to record your allotment visits to aid in documenting allotment conditions.** Forest Service personnel will attempt to visit the key areas within the allotment during the second half of the scheduled grazing period. If areas within a pasture or the pasture as a whole begin to approach the identified stubble heights (Tables 4 and 5), actions will need to be taken to limit additional forage use. If use within a key area is approaching allowable stubble heights (in red) then the rest of the pasture will also be monitored and inspected to determine overall use patterns. This information will be used to determine if cattle are to be re-distributed within the pasture or removed from the pasture.

Table 3. Qualitative characteristics of grazing intensity categories used to characterize New Mexico rangelands (Holechek & Galt, 6/00, Rangelands).		
Qualitative Grazing Intensity Category	Use of Forage by Weight	Qualitative Indicators of Grazing Intensity
Light to non-use	0-30	Only choice plants (key species) and areas show use. There is no use of poor forage plants
Conservative (Summer Range)	31-40	Choice forage plants (key species) have abundant seed stalks; Areas more than a mile from water show little use; About one third to one half primary forage plants show grazing on key areas.
Moderate (Winter Range)	41-50	Most of accessible range show use; Key areas show patchy appearance with one half to two thirds of primary forage plants (key species) showing use; Grazing is noticeable 1-1½ miles from water
Heavy	51-60	Nearly all primary forage plants show grazing on key areas; Palatable shrubs show hedging; Key areas show a lack of seed stalks; Grazing is noticeable in areas over 1½ miles from water
Severe	61+	Key areas show a clipped or mowed appearance (no stubble ht.); Shrubs are severely hedged; There is evidence of livestock trailing to forage; Areas over 1½ miles from water lack stubble height.

Table 4. Grazing intensity guide for shortgrass-pinyon/juniper rangeland in New Mexico (Holechek & Galt, 6/00, Rangelands). Winter Range				
Qualitative Grazing Intensity Category	Use of Forage by Weight	Stubble Height Indicators of Grazing Intensity		
		Blue Grama	Western Wheatgrass	Crested Wheatgrass
	(%)	----- Inches-----		
Light to non-use	0-30	2.5+	7.0+	5.5+
Conservative	31-40	2.0-2.5	4.0-5.0	4.0-5.0
Moderate*	41-50	1.5-2.0	3.0-4.0	3.0-4.0
Heavy	51-60	1.0-1.5	2.0-3.0	2.0-3.0
Severe	61+	<1.0	<2.0	<2.0
* Moderate use allowable due to dormancy of grasses.				

Table 5. Grazing intensity guide for mountain grassland rangeland in New Mexico (Holechek & Galt, 6/00, Rangelands). Summer Range						
Qualitative Grazing Intensity Category	Use of Forage by Weight	Stubble Height Indicators of Grazing Intensity				
		Arizona Fescue	Western Wheatgrass	Bluegrass	Mountain Muhly	Timber Oatgrass*
	---(%)---	-----Inches-----				
Light to none-use	0-30	8+	7+	5+	5+	8+
Conservative	31-40	6-7	4-5	4-5	4-5	6-7
Moderate	41-50	5-6	3-4	3-4	3-4	5-6
Heavy	51-60	4-5	2-3	2-3	2-3	4-5
Severe	61+	<4	<2	<2	<2	<4
*Determined by personal observation.						

The Forest Service may or may not conduct inspections on the grazing allotment during the on-going grazing period as time and personnel availability allows. Monitoring items such as distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, and condition of improvements will be evaluated. The range readiness inspection will determine whether range vegetation and soils are ready for grazing. **The grazing permit holder is encouraged to participate in these inspections.**

III. MAINTENANCE OF IMPROVEMENTS

Maintenance of improvements i.e. (fences, springs, tanks, wells) should be complete and in satisfactory condition prior to entry date to the specific pasture. Please refer to your permit map for your responsibilities. **If your maintenance responsibilities do not meet satisfactory condition you will not be permitted to turn out or your entry date may be delayed.**

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (copy available upon request). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with Leonard Atencio, Forest Supervisor, Santa Fe National Forest, at 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Joseph G.

Reddan, District Ranger, Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District, P. O. Box 429, Pecos, NM 87552.

The permittee should always ensure that full and sincere attempts to resolve disagreements through working with the District Ranger has occurred prior to filing a Notice to Appeal. The District Ranger is willing to meet with any permittee to discuss any issues related to the action.

JOSEPH G. REDDAN
District Ranger

ALLOTMENT INSPECTION SUMMARY

Glorieta-Apache

2003

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